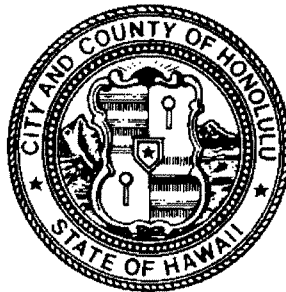


**GENERAL SAFETY
TAILGATE LESSON PLAN**

Safety Procedures For Chain Saw Users



CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
Division of Industrial Safety and Workers' Compensation

TAILGATE LESSON

SAFETY PROCEDURES FOR CHAIN SAW USERS

The following information has been prepared for tailgate sessions with your chain saw users. Discuss this topic with your workers within two weeks from the date you receive this. Keep this instruction sheet for future sessions and as reference material. Also keep a record of your employees who have received this tailgate lesson.

Basic Chain Saw Safety Precautions

1. Wear safety shoes, goggles, non-slip gloves, hard hat, hearing protection and other personal protective equipment, as necessary.
2. Clothing should be snug fitting and shirt tucked in. Do not wear scarfs, jewelry, or other items which could be drawn into the chain saw engine or snag on the chain or underbrush.
3. After starting the engine, always hold the chain saw with both hands while the engine is running. Use a firm grip with thumbs and fingers **encircling** the chain saw handles. A firm grip will help you maintain control of the saw if kickback occurs. Don't let go of the chain saw.
4. Never operate a chain saw when you are tired or fatigued. Operate saw for only short durations. Stop the saw frequently and take rest periods.
5. When the engine is running, always keep the chain away from all parts of your body.
6. Be sure that people and animals are at a safe distance while you are using your chain saw.
7. Use the chain saw for cutting *only* wood or materials made of wood.
8. Inspect the chain saw before use. Be sure all guards are in place and safety devices are operable. Cutting teeth on the chain should be sharp and the chain snug.
9. Inspect the wood to be cut for embedded nails, staples, wire or other objects. Remove these items or find another place to cut as they may jam the saw or cause a kickback.

Safety Tips - Chain Saw Operations

1. Always stop the engine before moving to a new location. The chain saw should be pointed to the rear and muffler away from your body while you carry the chain saw to another location.
2. Let the chain saw cool down before refueling. You should be able to touch the hot spots for at least one second without feeling discomfort. Refuel chain saw outdoors and away from heat or open flames. Do not smoke while refueling. Move the chain saw at least 10 feet from the fueling point before starting the engine.
3. Keep the handles clean and dry, and free of oil or fuel.
4. Before starting the engine, make sure the chain does not touch anything (your body, ground, and other objects).
5. Never leave the saw unattended while the engine is running. Shut off the engine before putting down the saw.

6. Operate the chain saw only in well ventilated areas.
7. Be sure that the chain stops moving when the throttle control is released. If chain continues to move, shut off engine and request repair services.
8. Let the saw do the work; do not force the saw through the wood.
9. Start all cuts at top speed (full throttle) and continue to cut at full throttle.
10. Be aware of the downward or outward path that the saw will take after the wood is cut. Keep your legs and body parts out of this path, and always be in control of the saw.
11. Use extreme caution when cutting small size brush, branches and limbs, because slender materials may catch the chain and be whipped toward you or pull you off balance.
12. When cutting a limb that is under tension, be alert for its **springback** to avoid being struck by the limb when the tension in the wood fibers is released.
13. Stand on the uphill side of a log so it won't roll on you when it's cut.
14. Do not operate a chain saw on a ladder or tree unless you have been *specifically trained* to do so.

Prevent Kickbacks

(Refer to the attached illustrations)

1. Hold the chain saw firmly with both hands. Do not overreach or cut above chest height.
2. Never allow the tip of the guide bar to contact a log, branch, the ground or any objects. A properly mounted **anti-kickback device* on the guide bar will prevent kickbacks. Most cutting tasks may be performed with this safety device attached to the saw.
3. Keep your body to the side of the saw, and use a well-balanced stance.
4. Keep the cutting teeth on the chain sharp. Do not operate the saw with a loose chain. A dull or loose chain snags easily (and may result in a kickback). Maintain the sharpness and proper tension on the chain as suggested in the Owner's Manual.
5. Never cut brush or shrubbery with a chain saw. Such materials may stop the chain and cause kickback.
6. Avoid making boring cuts in a tree.

WARNING: Never operate a chain saw that is damaged, improperly adjusted, or not completely and securely assembled. Do not operate the saw if the engine backfires or leaks fuel. Chain saw repairs should be performed only by competent chain saw service personnel.

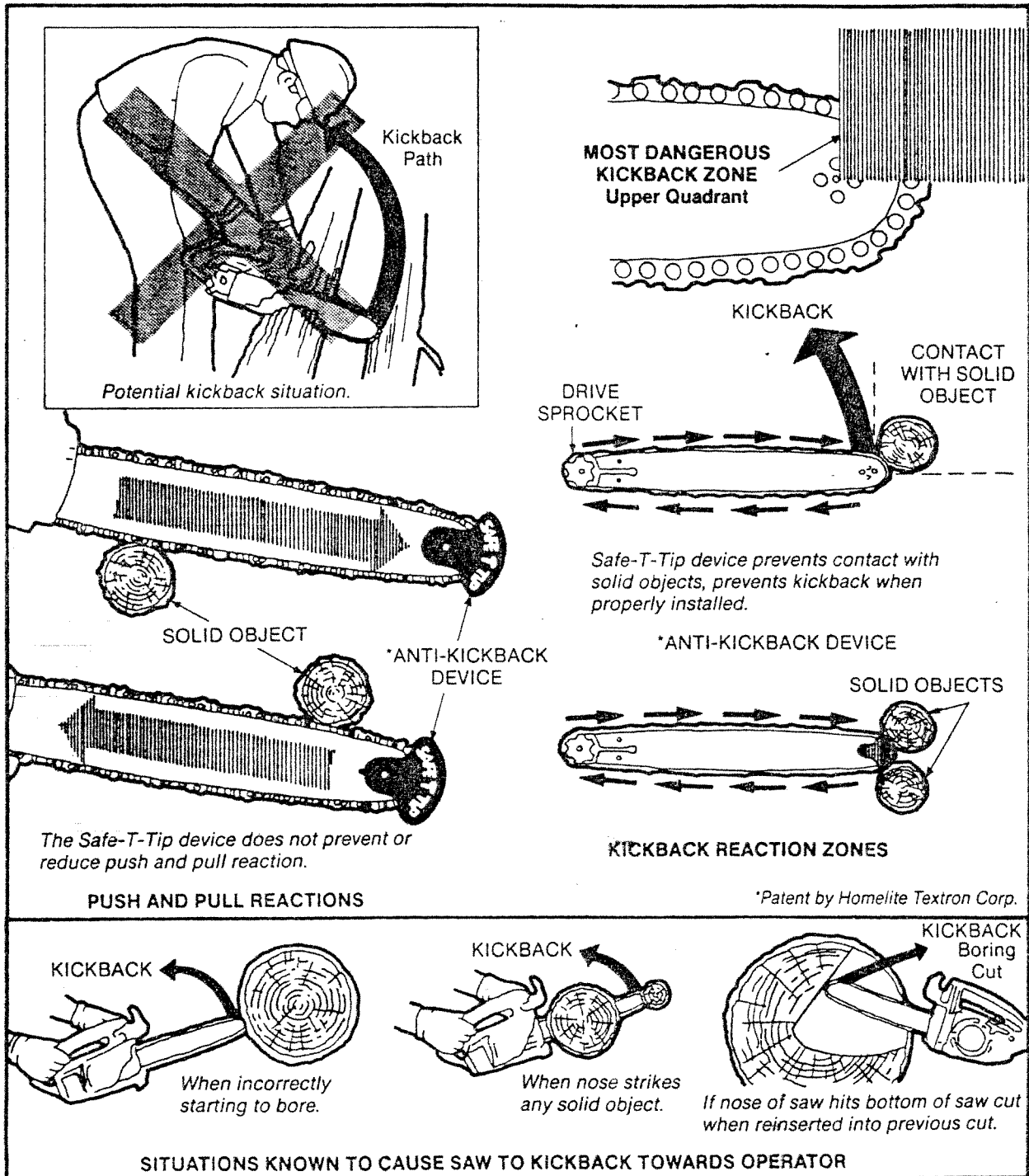
Store the chain saw in a secure, cool, dry, well-ventilated area.

Refer to your Owner's Manual for start-up/shut down procedures, cutting techniques and maintenance of your chain saw.

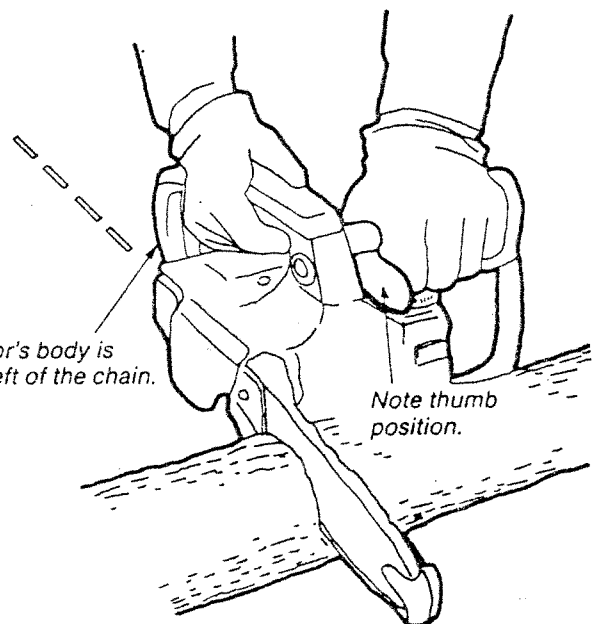
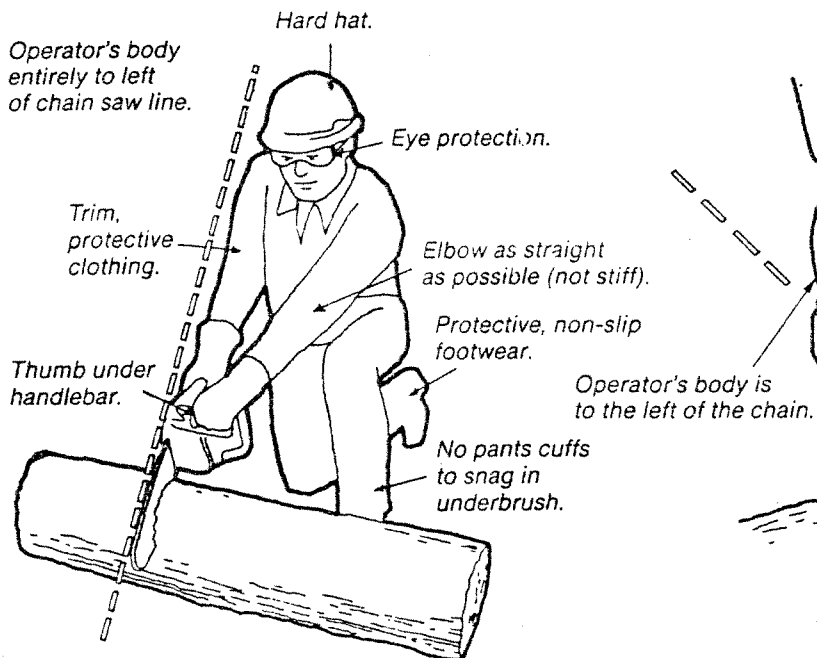
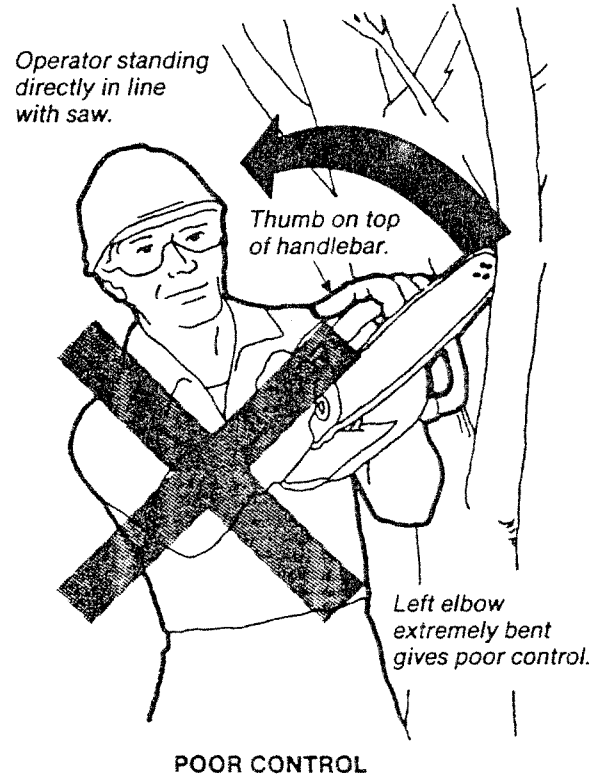
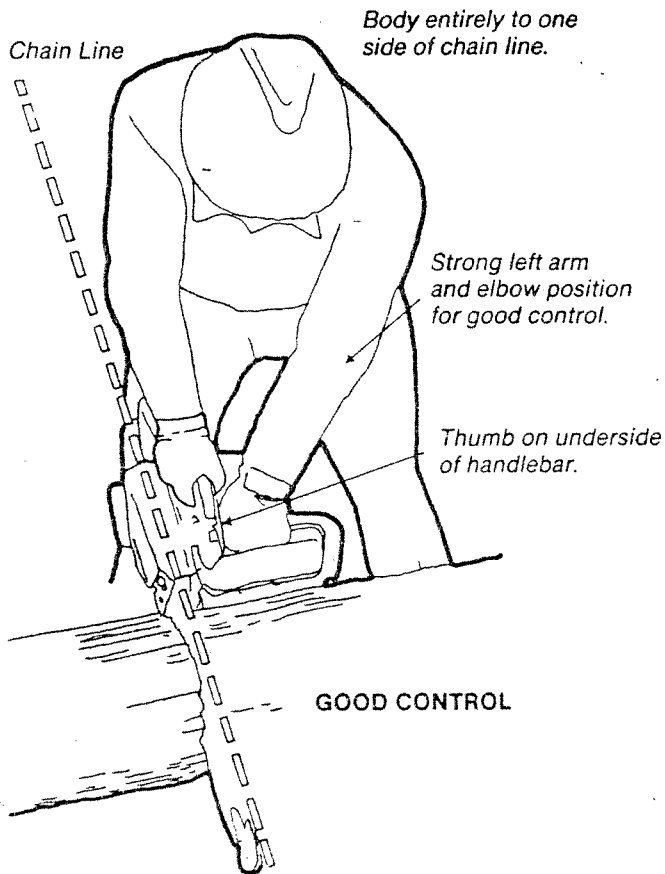
**The anti-kickback device is a patent of Homelite Textron Corporation.*

PREVENT KICKBACKS

KICKBACK is a dangerous reactive force which occurs only when solid contact with the moving chain is made at the upper quadrant of the bar nose. A violent kickback will occur any time the chain hits a solid object (or takes too large a cut) while rounding this top quadrant of the bar nose. An anti-kickback device, when properly installed, will prevent kickbacks.



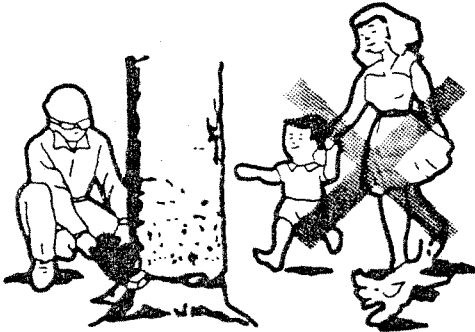
CONTROL THE CHAIN SAW



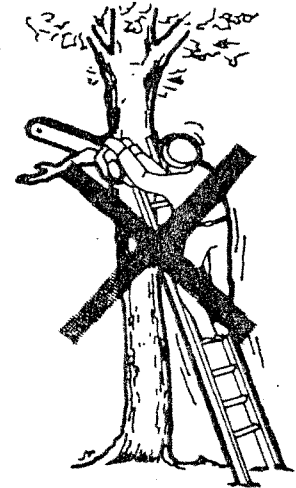
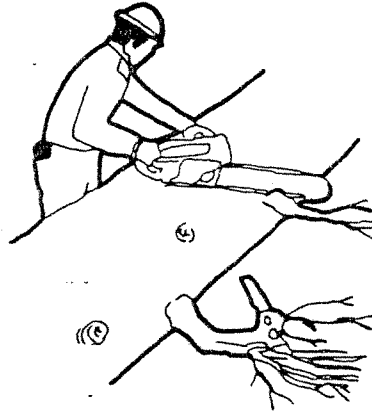
Use proper grip — always keep both hands firmly on the saw.

WORK AREA PRECAUTIONS

Keep bystanders a safe distance from the cutting area.

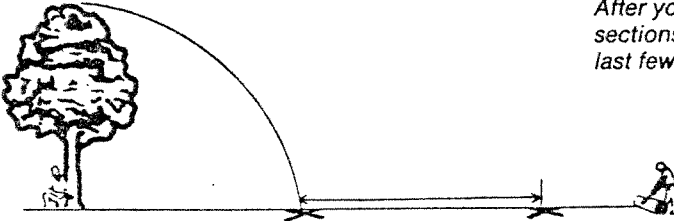


When limbing, standing with the log between you and the work offers maximum safety.



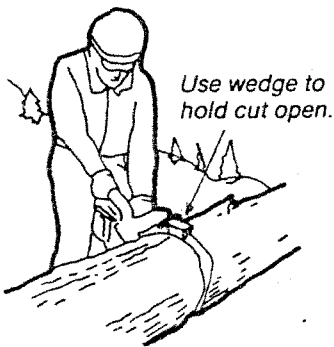
Cutting aloft or from ladders is extremely dangerous.

Safe distance for spacing workers is twice the height of the tallest trees.

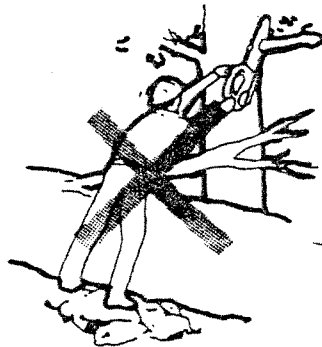


Leave some supporting branches uncut. After you have positioned the log sections you can cut off these last few limbs.

Operator has poor control of saw if he overreaches or cuts above chest height.



Use wedge to hold cut open.

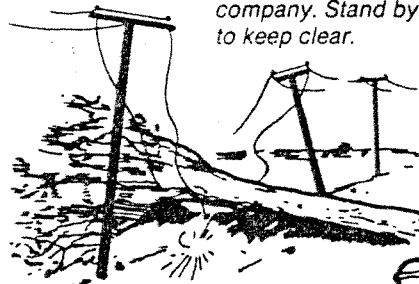


Stand on uphill side when cutting because log may roll.

Always cut from the uphill side so that the cut-off section of the log will not roll over you. You can be pulled off balance if you have your weight all on one leg, so be sure to stand with both feet on solid ground. Make sure that cut-off wood will not fall on your toes or on your head. Never cut materials directly over your head. Limit your cutting to chest height because a chain saw held above the chest is difficult to control against kickback forces.

In areas near roadways of power lines, do not operate until you have permission from the authorities. When working near roads, you must post flagmen to control traffic. If you accidentally knock down a power line or discover one that is down, DO NOT GO NEAR IT, but notify the power company as soon as you are able. A downed power line is a good illustration of why woodsmen should pair up and always keep within calling distance of one another. In the event of trouble such as this, one man can stand guard while the other summons help.

Don't go near downed power lines. Send someone to notify the power company. Stand by to warn others to keep clear.



Keep within calling distance of others in case help is needed.

